

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /090 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1159

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USMISSION ECBRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ELAB, ILO, XA, IS

SUBJECT: HISTADRUT WAFFLES ON VORSTER VISIT

REF: (A) ADDIS ABABA 4774, (B) TEL AVIV 2794

1. ACCORDING TO MEMBERS OF HISTADRUT INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, HISTADRUT HAD AVOIDED TAKING A PUBLIC STAND ON THE VORSTER VISIT. HOWEVER, OUT OF SENSITIVITY THAT THE VISIT COULD AFFECT ITS RELATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHERE IT MAINTAINS CONTACTS THROUGH AID, TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS HISTADRUT ENTERPRISES, SECRETARY GENERAL YERUCHAM MESHEL WROTE A LETTER DATED APRIL 11 TO ICFTU SECRETARY GENERAL OTTO KERSTEN DENOUNCING APARTHEID, EXPLAINING THAT HISTADRUT HAD DEMANDED

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THAT THE GOI BRING ITS OPPOSITION TO RACIAL DISCRIMINATION TO

THE ATTENTION OF THE SOUTH AFRICANS, AND DECLARING THAT HISTADRUT HAD REFUSED ANY INVITATIONS TO EITHER GOI OR SOUTH AFRICAN FUNCTIONS HONORING VORSTER.

2. AS THE HISTADRUT PAPER DAVAR HAD INDICATED BOTH IN ITS NEWS AND EDITORIAL COLUMNS, THE LABOR LEADERSHIP ALON WITH THE ISRAELI GENERAL PUBLIC GENERALLY SUPPORTED THE VISIT AND DID NOT WISH TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT WITH CRITICAL STATEMENTS. THUS NEITHER DAVAR NOR ANY OTHER ISRAELI PAPER PUBLISHED THE TEXT OF THE HISTADRUT LETTER TO KERSTEN. HOWEVER, SEVERAL OF HISTADRUT'S LEFT-LEANING MAPAM MEMBERS AND MESHEL HIMSELF, WHO ARE AWARE OF THE POTENTIALLY NEGATIVE IMPACT THE VORSTER VISIT MIGHT HAVE ON ILO QUESTION AND ISRAEL'S STILL TENUOUS ALBEIT IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES, PRIVATELY EXPRESSED THEIR RESERVATIONS.

3. TEXT OF LETTER TO KERSTEN: I SUBMIT THEREWITH THE POSITION OF HISTADRUT'S EXECUTIVE BUREAU IN CONNECTION WITH THE VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE DELEGATION FROM THAT COUNTRY NOW IN PROGRESS IN ISRAEL:

A. HISTADRUT IS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN MATTERS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND FOREIGN STATES.

B. NEVERTHELESS, THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU IS CALLING OUR GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION TO THE RESOLUTIONS OF ICFTU ON THE QUESTION OF "APARTHEID" IN SOUTH AFRICA TO WHICH HISTADRUT IS FULLY COMMITTED TOGETHER WITH THE REE LABOR MOVEMENTS THE WORLD OVER.

C. THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU HAS INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT EXPECTS THAT THE POSITION OF HISTADRUT IN OPPOSING UNEQUIVOCALLY AND ABSOLUTELY EVERY MANIFESTATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLES AND COMMUNITIES BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION BY OUR GOVERNMENT'S REPRESENTATIVES IN THEIR CURRENT DISCUSSIONS.

D. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF HISTADRUT WILL NOT ACCEPT INVITATIONS TO ATTEND ANY FUNCTIONS IN HONOR OR IN THE PRESENCE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION DURING THEIR VISIT IN ISRAEL. END TEXT OF LETTER TO KERSTEN.
TOON

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